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PTQ8962

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

PAGE 01 CARACA 04206 01 OF 02 262059Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	CTME-00
	DINT-00	DODE-00	PERC-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EXIM-01
	E-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01
	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OES-00	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00
	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	/010W					

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O 261954Z DEC 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9325
INFO DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
OPEC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 004206

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 04206 01 OF 02 262059Z
DEPT ALSO FOR DS/IP/WHA, S/ES-O/DS, AND DS/DSS/ITA
NSC FOR LLORENS
ENERGY FOR D.PHUMPHREY, A.LOCKWOOD, M.BILLIG, AND B.MARCOIS
SECSTATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI - R.ULLRICH AND R.PORTER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/26/2012
TAGS: EPET, PGOV, ASEC, VE
SUBJECT: STRIKE DAY 25: PDVSA TOUTS IMPENDING NORMALIZATION

REF: CARACAS 4151

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. SHAPIRO, REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

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SUMMARY

1. (C) ON DECEMBER 24, PETROLEOS DE VENEZUELA (PDVSA) PRESIDENT ALI RODRIGUEZ ASSURED THE FOREIGN PRESS THAT NORMAL EXPORT OPERATIONS WILL RESUME BY JANUARY 15. ON THE SAME DAY, 90 MANAGERS, INCLUDING KEY OPERATIONS PERSONNEL, WERE PUT ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE AND AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO DETAIN BY FORCE THE FORMER MANAGER OF PDVSA'S WESTERN PRODUCTION AREA. OIL PRODUCTION IS NOW SOMETHING OVER 100,000 BARRELS PER DAY (COMPARED TO 3.1 MILLION PER DAY BEFORE DECEMBER) AND GASOLINE CONTINUES TO BE IN SHORT SUPPLY. THE PDVSA OPPOSITION REPORTS THAT BRAZIL HAS SENT THE "AMAZON EXPLORER" TO VENEZUELA WITH 60,000 TONS OF GASOLINE. END SUMMARY.

ALI RODRIGUEZ: CHARM OFFENSIVE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 04206 01 OF 02 262059Z

2. (C) WITH THE OIL STRIKE DRAGGING INTO ITS FOURTH WEEK, PETROLEOS DE VENEZUELA (PDVSA) PRESIDENT ALI RODRIGUEZ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] IN A DECEMBER 24 MEETING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPORTED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES AND WALL STREET JOURNAL AMONG OTHERS, RODRIGUEZ CLAIMED THAT NORMAL EXPORT OPERATIONS WILL RESUME BY JANUARY 15. HE ALSO SAID THE GOV IS PREPARING TO PURSUE CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS OF STRIKE LEADERS.

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3. (C) ON THE SAME DAY, PDVSA SENT LETTERS TO 90 MANAGERS, LEAVING THEM ON THE PDVSA PAYROLL FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE WHILE STRIPPING THEM OF RESPONSIBILITIES. NUMBER ONE ON THE LIST IS FORMER VICE PRESIDENT JORGE KAMKOFF. [REDACTED]

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GASOLINE SHORTAGES CONTINUE

6. (C) ALTHOUGH A SMALL AMOUNT OF GASOLINE HAS BEEN DELIVERED
TO CARACAS OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, THE GASOLINE SITUATION

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PAGE 01 CARACA 04206 02 OF 02 262059Z
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	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	LAB-01
	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OES-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00	EPAE-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

/010W

-----1D0753 262100Z /38

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9326
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NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 004206

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CONTINUES TO BE CRITICAL. MANY RESIDENTS OF CARACAS SPENT
THEIR CHRISTMAS IN LINES AT GASOLINE STATIONS. FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN OVER A WEEK, GAS STATIONS IN THE UPSCALE AREA NEAR
THE EMBASSY HAD GASOLINE ON DECEMBER 25. THE FORCED
OFF-LOADING OF THE GASOLINE ON THE PDV MARINE TANKER &PILIN
LEONS HAS SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED THE SITUATION IN MARACAIBO
BUT THIS IS EXPECTED TO HELP FOR ONLY THREE TO FOUR DAYS. A

[REDACTED] INFORMED ECONOFF THAT
PETROBRAS HAS SENT A VESSEL, THE &AMAZON EXPLORER," TO
VENEZUELA WITH 60,000 TONS OF GASOLINE.

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COMMENT

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PAGE 03

CARACA 04206 02 OF 02 262059Z

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